

REMARKS

Claims 1-178 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, and new claims 179-255 are presented for examination with the Request for Continued Examination filed herewith. The objections to the specification have been noted, and corrections for Figures 11 and 12 have been provided. No new matter has been added. A description of Figure 15 and a new abstract will be provided upon allowance of the claims.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks and for various other reasons readily apparent, Applicants submit that all of the claims now present are allowable, and withdrawal of the rejections and a Notice of Allowance are courteously solicited.

If any impediment to the allowance of the claims remains after consideration of this request for reconsideration, and such impediment could be alleviated during a telephone interview, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (214) 969-4669 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

A two month extension fee of \$210.00 is included in the RCE payment included with this submission and a petition therefore is hereby made. No additional fees are believed to be due with this Amendment. If any other applicable fee or refund has been overlooked, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee or credit any refund to the deposit account of Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld, L.L.P., No. 01-0657.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: April 16, 2004



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